

Remarks

The Office Action mailed January 24, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-20 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended. Claims 4 and 15 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1-18 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,626,697 is respectfully traversed. Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite subject matter that is not disclosed in the '697 patent and is not obvious over the claims of the '618 patent. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the double patenting rejection of claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of former claim 4, now cancelled, which parallels the allowable subject matter indicated in the Office Action with respect to claims 19-22. Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable.

Claims 2-3 and 5-9 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 2-3 and 5-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2-3 and 5-9 are likewise patentable.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the recitations of former claim 15, now cancelled, including the correction of a typographical error in the original claim 15 which recited an "output connector" rather than an "output cassette" as intended in line 2 of claim 15. Claim 10 therefore now includes subject matter that parallels the allowable subject matter indicated in the Office Action with respect to claims 19-22. Claim 10 is therefore submitted to be patentable.

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Claims 11-14 and 16-18 depend from claim 10, and when the recitations of claims 11-14 and 16-18 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 10, Applicants submit that claims 11-14 and 16-18 are likewise patentable.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-22.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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